

California Field Crop Review



Frequency: Monthly
Released: January 14, 1998

(USPS 598-270)
VOL. 19 NO. 1



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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American Pima cotton production is forecast at 420 thousand bales, 12 percent above last year's crop. The 184 thousand acres for harvest are 12 percent above last year. Some Pima growers were still hoping to do a second picking on a few fields.

CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES COTTON

California's 1997 Upland cotton production is forecast at 2.20 million bales as of January 1, unchanged from the December forecast, but 8 percent below last year. This is based on 875 thousand acres for harvest, with an average yield of 1,207 pounds per acre, unchanged from last month. Upland harvest in the San Joaquin Valley was complete by the end of December.

U.S. Upland cotton production for 1997 is estimated at 18.4 million bales, fractionally above the 1996 output. Acreage harvested, at 13.0 million, was 3 percent above 1996, but yield, at 679 pounds, was 3 percent below the 1996 crop. U.S. American Pima production is estimated at 537 thousand bales, up 2 percent from the 529 thousand bales produced in 1996. The 1997 harvested acreage, at 251 thousand, was down 2 percent from the 256 thousand harvested in 1996. The 1997 yield of 1,027 pounds per acre was 4 percent above the 1996 yield.

FIELD CROP ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND U.S.

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1996	Forecast 1997	1996	Forecast 1997	Unit	1996	Forecast 1997	Unit	1996	Forecast 1997
	-- 1,000 Acres --								-- Thousands --	
CALIFORNIA										
Wheat, Winter 1/	640.0	510.0	550.0	400.0	Tons	2.07	2.25	Tons	1,138.5	900.0
Wheat, Durum	140.0	145.0	138.0	144.0	Tons	3.00	2.85	Tons	414.0	410.4
Oats 1/	300.0	350.0	30.0	35.0	Tons	1.20	1.12	Tons	36.0	39.2
Barley 1/	250.0	230.0	200.0	180.0	Tons	1.44	1.32	Tons	288.0	237.6
Corn, All	500.0	580.0	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	---	---
For Grain	---	---	220.0	260.0	Tons	4.48	4.76	Tons	985.6	1,237.6
For Silage	---	---	275.0	315.0	Tons	25.00	26.00	Tons	6,875.0	8,190.0
Rice, All	502.0	512.0	500.0	510.0	Cwt.	74.90	83.00	Cwt.	37,459.0	42,341.0
Long	5.0	9.0	5.0	9.0	Cwt.	72.00	77.00	Cwt.	360.0	693.0
Medium	484.0	487.0	482.0	485.0	Cwt.	75.00	83.20	Cwt.	36,150.0	40,352.0
Short	13.0	16.0	13.0	16.0	Cwt.	73.00	81.00	Cwt.	949.0	1,296.0
Cotton, All 2/	1,165.0	1,065.0	1,159.0	1,059.0	Lbs.	1,145.00	1,188.00	Bales	2,765.0	2,620.0
Upland	1,000.0	880.0	995.0	875.0	Lbs.	1,153.00	1,207.00	Bales	2,390.0	2,200.0
American-Pima	165.0	185.0	164.0	184.0	Lbs.	1,098.00	1,096.00	Bales	375.0	420.0
Cottonseed	---	---	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	1,020.0	967.0
Sugar Beets 3/	84.0	101.0	82.0	99.0	Tons	29.50	30.00	Tons	2,419.0	2,970.0
Beans, Dry, All 4/	128.0	135.0	123.0	132.0	Cwt.	18.90	22.50	Cwt.	2,325.0	2,970.0
Hay, All	---	---	1,450.0	1,500.0	Tons	5.52	5.74	Tons	8,008.0	8,616.0
Alfalfa	---	---	940.0	980.0	Tons	7.00	7.20	Tons	6,580.0	7,056.0
Other	---	---	510.0	520.0	Tons	2.80	3.00	Tons	1,428.0	1,560.0
UNITED STATES										
Wheat, Winter 1/	51,958.0	48,342.0	39,679.0	41,813.0	Tons	1.12	1.35	Tons	44,311.7	56,478.3
Wheat, Durum	3,630.0	3,250.0	3,556.0	3,107.0	Tons	0.98	0.83	Tons	3,482.7	2,585.8
Oats 1/	4,661.0	5,169.0	2,685.0	2,911.0	Tons	0.92	0.97	Tons	2,484.4	2,817.7
Barley 1/	7,144.0	6,910.0	6,767.0	6,425.0	Tons	1.40	1.40	Tons	9,498.0	8,987.5
Corn, All	79,507.0	80,227.0	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	---	---
For Grain	---	---	73,147.0	73,720.0	Tons	3.56	3.56	Tons	260,216.2	262,236.1
For Silage	---	---	5,415.0	5,758.0	Tons	15.40	16.00	Tons	83,594.0	91,903.0
Rice, All	2,819.0	3,056.0	2,799.0	3,034.0	Cwt.	61.21	58.96	Cwt.	171,321.0	178,896.0
Long	1,978.0	2,279.0	1,962.0	2,261.0	Cwt.	57.77	53.80	Cwt.	113,351.0	121,647.0
Medium	826.0	759.0	822.0	755.0	Cwt.	69.22	73.95	Cwt.	56,901.0	55,833.0
Short	15.0	18.0	15.0	18.0	Cwt.	71.27	78.67	Cwt.	1,069.0	1,416.0
Cotton, All 2/	14,633.5	13,818.0	12,868.1	13,283.5	Lbs.	707.00	686.00	Bales	18,942.0	18,976.9
Upland	14,375.5	13,566.0	12,612.2	13,032.5	Lbs.	701.00	679.00	Bales	18,413.5	18,439.9
American-Pima	258.0	252.0	255.9	251.0	Lbs.	991.00	1,027.00	Bales	528.5	537.0
Cottonseed	---	---	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	7,143.5	7,278.0
Sugar Beets 3/	1,368.4	1,459.2	1,323.3	1,427.8	Tons	20.20	20.90	Tons	26,680.0	29,874.0
Beans, Dry, All 4/	1,843.0	1,851.8	1,752.7	1,720.2	Cwt.	15.95	16.95	Cwt.	27,960.0	29,156.0
Hay, All	---	---	60,879.0	60,815.0	Tons	2.45	2.50	Tons	149,457.0	152,120.0
Alfalfa	---	---	24,291.0	23,673.0	Tons	3.27	3.35	Tons	79,517.0	79,242.0
Other	---	---	36,588.0	37,142.0	Tons	1.91	1.96	Tons	69,940.0	72,878.0

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall. 2/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480 pound net-weight bales. 3/ Relates to year of intended harvest except for over-wintered spring planted beets. 4/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

CALIFORNIA RICE CROP UP 13 PERCENT

California farmers produced 42.3 million cwt. of rice in 1997. This was 13 percent above the 37.5 million cwt. produced in 1996. The 1997 crop included 693 thousand cwt. of long grain rice, up 93 percent from the 360 thousand cwt. produced in 1996. Medium grain production totaled 40.4 million cwt., up 12 percent from the 1996 crop. Short grain production was 1,296 thousand cwt., 37 percent above the previous year. The overall yield of 8,300 pounds per acre, was 11 percent above 1996. The 510 thousand acres harvested in 1997 were 2 percent more than in 1996. United States 1997 rice production is estimated at 178.9 million cwt., 4 percent more than the 171.3 million cwt. harvested in 1996. Growers harvested 3.03 million acres in 1997. This was 8 percent above the 2.80 million acres harvested in 1996. Yields averaged 5,896 pounds per acre in 1997, 4 percent below the previous year's average of 6,121 pounds.

CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 1 ROUGH RICE STOCKS

California rough rice stocks in all positions on December 1 totaled 34.7 million cwt., down 1 percent from last year. Warehouses accounted for 29.5 million cwt. of the total rough rice stored. Estimates of on-farm rough rice stocks and stocks in mill storage were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

CALIFORNIA OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS BY MONTHS

Month	Season		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	- 1,000 Cwt. -		
October 1 ^{a/}	4,927	4,647	4,515
December 1	31,179	35,031	34,664
March 1	23,445	20,377	
August 1	10,261	7,776	

^{a/} Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

DECEMBER 1 ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	1996	1997
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --	
ROUGH RICE		
Long Grain	^{a/}	^{a/}
Medium Grain	33,350	32,779
Short Grain	^{a/}	^{a/}
TOTAL	35,031	34,664
MILLED RICE		
Whole Kernels (Head)		
Long Grain	6	17
Medium Grain	1,154	981
Short Grain	56	46
Total	1,216	1,044
Broken Kernels		
Second Heads ^{b/}	276	275
Screenings	---	---
Brewers	30	37
Total	306	312
TOTAL	1,522	1,356

^{a/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

^{b/} Includes screenings.

HAY STOCKS

Stocks of all hay on California farms as of December 1, 1997 totaled 1.62 million tons. This was 37 percent below the 2.59 million tons on hand a year earlier. United States hay stocks on farms as of December 1, 1997 were 103 million tons. This was 2 percent below the 105 million tons on farms on December 1, 1996.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	May 1		December 1	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 Tons -----			
California	361	160	2,594	1,624
Arizona	28	28	82	167
Nevada	166	60	752	711
Oregon	264	97	2,108	1,653
Utah	349	302	1,327	1,630
United States	20,739	17,372	104,832	102,517

GRAIN STOCKS

Stocks of wheat in California on December 1, 1997 totaled 428 thousand tons, 17 percent above the 366 thousand tons on hand a year earlier. U.S. stocks of all wheat, at 48.4 million tons, were up 32 percent from the 36.6 million tons on hand December 1, 1996.

Barley stocks in California on December 1, 1997 totaled 55.3 thousand tons, fractionally below a year earlier. U.S. barley stocks, at 5.88 million tons, were 1 percent below the December 1, 1996 total.

California off-farm corn stocks totaled 368 thousand tons on December 1, 1997. This was 17 percent above a year earlier. U.S. stocks of corn in all positions totaled 202 million tons, up 5 percent from a year earlier.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Dec. 1, 1996	Sept. 1, 1997	Dec. 1, 1997
ALL WHEAT	---- Tons ----		
California			
On-Farm	51,000	54,000	36,000
Off-Farm ^{1/}	314,760	640,800	391,500
Total	365,760	694,800	427,500
U.S. Total	36,564,300	62,290,440	48,446,730
BARLEY			
California			
On-Farm	16,800	19,200	14,400
Off-Farm ^{1/}	38,688	53,976	40,896
Total	55,488	73,176	55,296
U.S. Total	5,957,328	7,868,328	5,883,840
OATS			
California			
Off Farm ^{1/ 2/}	1,968	3,328	960
U.S. Total	2,013,888	2,510,752	2,305,264
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/ 2/}	314,524	42,756	368,088
U.S. Total	193,283,272	24,728,508	202,435,100
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/ 2/}	16,800	7,140	17,528
U.S. Total	13,085,996	1,328,908	10,372,852

^{1/} Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

^{2/} California on-farm stocks and total stocks for corn, oats and sorghum are included in United States totals.

WINTER AND DURUM WHEAT SEEDINGS

California farmers are expected to seed 500 thousand acres to winter wheat for the 1998 crop. This is down 2 percent from the 1997 crop. Durum wheat is expected to be seeded on 160 thousand acres, up 10 percent from the 145 thousand acres seeded for 1997.

U.S. farmers expect to seed 46.6 million acres to winter wheat for the 1998 crop. This is a 4 percent decrease from the acreage seeded the previous year. Arizona farmers expect to seed 120 thousand acres to Durum wheat, up 33 percent from the acreage seeded for the 1997 crop. Durum wheat seedings for other states will be published in "Prospective Plantings," which is released March 31, 1998.

ACRES SEEDDED AND TO BE SEEDDED

Area	1996	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- 1,000 Acres --			Percent
WINTER WHEAT				
California	640	510	500	98
United States	51,958	48,342	46,597	96
DURUM WHEAT				
California	140	145	160	110
Arizona	165	90	120	133
United States	3,630	3,250	^{a/}	^{a/}

^{a/} To be published in "Prospective Plantings" on March 31, 1998.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - DECEMBER 1997

Prices received by California farmers at mid-December were above November for hay other than alfalfa and cottonseed. Dry edible beans, all types of potatoes, all hay, alfalfa hay, and Upland cotton lint were below the previous month. Mid-December and full-month November prices for wheat and barley were not published due to possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for fall potatoes, cottonseed, and all types of hay. Prices for dry edible beans, all potatoes, and Upland cotton lint were below December 1996 levels.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 104 based on 1990-92=100, down three points from November. Price decreases from November for wheat, corn, cotton, soybeans, lettuce, hogs, eggs, and poultry more than offset price increases for peanuts, rice, and strawberries. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of corn, peanuts, soybeans, grapes, cattle, and calves more than offset the relatively higher marketings of wheat, hay, tobacco, oranges, lettuce, hogs, and poultry.

Compared with December 1996, the All Farm Products Index was six points (5.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1996 for wheat, corn, cotton, soybeans, oranges, lettuce, hogs, and poultry more than offset price increases for cattle, calves, strawberries, tomatoes, and potatoes.

The December all crops index was 110, down 3.5 percent from November and 5.2 percent below December 1996. From November, price decreases for food grains, feed grains and hay, cotton, oilseeds, and lettuce offset price increases for fruits, tobacco, and tomatoes.

The December food grains index, at 119, was down 2.5 percent from the previous month and 13 percent below December 1996. The December all wheat price, at \$5.67 per cwt., was down 16 cents from November and \$1.10 below the December 1996 price.

The December feed grains & hay index was 111, down 0.9 percent from last month and 4.3 percent below December 1996. The corn price, at \$4.43 per cwt., was down 5 cents from November and 27 cents below the December 1996 price. The all hay price, at \$97.70 per ton, was down \$3.30 per ton from November.

The December cotton index, at 108, was down 3.6 percent from last month and 5.3 percent below December 1996. The December cotton price, at 65.5 cents per pound, was down 2.1 cents from November and 3.8 cents per pound below December 1996. Higher world production and ending stocks contributed to the decreases.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. a/

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. a/							
Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 15, 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 15, 1997
		----- Dollars -----					
Corn <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.70	4.48	4.43
Wheat <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	<u>d/</u>	<u>d/</u>	<u>d/</u>	6.77	5.83	5.67
Oats <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.38	5.06	4.81
Barley <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	<u>d/</u>	<u>d/</u>	<u>d/</u>	5.56	5.38	5.02
Sorghum Grain <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.93	3.93	3.96
Rice <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.63	9.71	10.10
Dry Edible Beans <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	38.70	29.70	29.60	24.10	18.30	19.20
All Potatoes <u>c/</u>	Cwt.	9.50	8.10	8.05	4.32	5.36	5.21
Winter	Cwt.	21.00	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	5.05	8.10	8.05	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	117.00	127.00	125.00	90.80	101.00	97.70
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	118.00	128.00	126.00	97.00	108.00	106.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	83.00	84.00	91.00	73.90	77.50	76.30
Upland Cotton Lint <u>b/</u>	Lb.	0.775	0.743	0.710	0.693	0.676	0.655
Cottonseed	Ton	174.00	175.00	177.00	133.00	124.00	122.00

U.S. INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	698	679 e/	661	110	107	104
All Crops	570	563 e/	541	116	114 e/	110
Food Grains	435	387 e/	377	137	122 e/	119
Feed Grains and Hay	415	399 e/	397	116	112 e/	111
Cotton	586	571 e/	554	114	112 e/	108
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	434	470 e/	465	86	93	92
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates f/	1,509	1,524 e/	1,526	115	116	116
Parity Ratio g/	46	45	43	96	92	90

a/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. b/ Previous month revised to monthly average. c/ Monthly average.

d/ Not published due to possible disclosure. e/ Revised. f/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. g/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FALL POTATO STOCKS

Stocks of fall potatoes in California storage as of January 1, 1998 were estimated at 2.80 million cwt., 7 percent fewer potatoes than last year. The amount in storage on January 1 represents 67 percent of production, up two percentage points from a year ago.

The 15 major states held 241 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 1998, down 8 percent from a year ago, but 8 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 59 percent of fall production, the same as a year earlier. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds, 15 percent whites, and 83 percent russets, with more russets and fewer whites and reds than a year ago. Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 totaled 166 million cwt. this season, down 8 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Carry-over from last year's record large crop and a shift to later maturing varieties for processing resulted in lighter disappearance. December's disappearance of 33.4 million cwt. was 1 percent above the last two years. Shrink and loss of 18.2 million cwt. was 14 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago. Processing of 1997 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 83.1 million cwt., down 11 percent from the 1996 crop and 5 percent below the 1995 crop. In December, processors claimed 15.1 cwt. of potatoes, down 2 percent from last year and 7 percent below two years ago. Eastern states stored 18.1 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 1998, down 7 percent from a year ago, but 8 percent above two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 8 percent, and Pennsylvania's stocks were off 33 percent. New York's storage was up 17 percent from a year ago. Central states accounted for 52.4 million cwt. of potato stocks this January, 13 percent below 1997, but 5 percent above 1996. Minnesota and Wisconsin stocks each dropped 19 percent. North Dakota's stocks fell 23 percent from last year, and Ohio was off 29 percent. Stocks in Nebraska jumped 73 percent, and Michigan gained 6 percent. Western states held 170 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1998, down 6 percent from last year, but 9 percent above 1996. Every state was below last year, except Montana. Idaho's stocks declined 6 percent, Washington was off 1 percent, and Oregon dropped 12 percent from a year ago. Colorado's storage fell 15 percent, and California's stocks were down 7 percent. Montana's gain from last year was 4 percent.

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JANUARY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

State	Crop of 1996		
	Production	Stocks Jan. 1, 1997	Percent of Production
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --		Percent
California	4,600	3,000	65
Idaho	142,800	92,000	64
Oregon	30,124	21,500	71
Washington	94,990	42,000	44
Total 15 States	442,752	262,120	59
State	Crop of 1997		
	Production	Stocks Jan. 1, 1998	Percent of Production
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --		Percent
California	4,200	2,800	67
Idaho	135,430	86,500	64
Oregon	27,161	19,000	70
Washington	88,060	41,500	47
Total 15 States	407,164	240,850	59



The Census Is in the Mail

The 1997 Census of Agriculture is coming to a mailbox near you. Take the time to fill out your report form and return it by **February 2, 1998**. It's the law.

All the information you give is completely confidential by law.

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